

F-5-92

John N. Clay Farmstead

Kemptown vicinity

Private

Ca. 1896-1930

The John N. Clay Farmstead has a two-story frame dwelling with vinyl siding which has considerably altered one of its most prominent exterior features, a second story sun porch which extended over a one-story veranda which encircles the south elevation and parts of the east and west sides. The band of 2/2 windows on the sun porch was covered, leaving a Palladian window in the gable peak. The farmstead also has an extensive set of outbuildings in deteriorated condition, the principal buildings being a frame and stone bank barn with cupolas, a wagon shed/corn crib of the same design, a frame meathouse with an extended gable over the doorway, several chicken houses and a hog barn. The farmstead was established by John N. Clay (1846-1923) and is still owned by his descendants. It is minimally significant in architecture due to alteration of the dwelling and the deterioration of the outbuildings; however, vestiges of the original appearance of the house and the number of outbuildings remaining constitute some historical character.

F-5-92
John N. Clay Farmstead
Kemptown
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Crederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes
Agriculture
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/residence
Domestic/secondary structure/other dependencies
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/chicken coop
Agriculture/subsistence/storage/granary

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John N. Clay Farmstead

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4105 Bill Moxley Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Kemptown ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Hilda M. McPherson & Dorothy Arrington

street & number 13228 Old National Pike telephone no.:

city, town Mt. Airy state and zip code Md. 21771

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1428

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 638

city, town Frederick state MD 21771

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-5-92

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 10

The John N. Clay Farmstead is a formerly agricultural complex centered on a two story frame dwelling with vinyl siding built about 1896 and its domestic and agricultural outbuildings built between 1896 and about 1930. The farmstead is now principally a private residence and is located on the north side of Bill Moxley Road about 0.9 mile northeast of the intersection of Bartholows Road near Kemptown, Frederick County, Maryland. The farmstead's principal contributing outbuildings are a circa 1900 barn with a sign reading "J.W. Moxley 1902" which is not original to the Clay barn, a wagon shed/corn crib with cupolas, a frame meathouse with an extended gable roof over the entrance, several chicken houses, a hog barn, a concrete block milk house, and an equipment shed. These buildings date mostly from the period 1900 to 1930. A non-contributing loafing shed is near the barn. The dates of the buildings are based on personal interviews, architectural details, and land records.

The dwelling's south elevation in its original form was dominated by a projecting cross gable from the main gable roof ridge. The gable extended on the second story over a one-story open veranda which sheltered three sides of the house. The second story cross gable had several windows on each of its three sides with an arched Palladian window in the gable peak. The vinyl siding application in recent years covered the entire south side of the cross gable, leaving the Palladian window as the only opening on the south side. The east and west sides of the gable each have two 2/2 windows, indicating the original sash type of the covered openings. Below the gable, the one-story porch has turned columns with brackets and a spindle frieze. The first story has two bays with an entrance in the west bay under a narrow two-light transom and sidelights. The flanking window bay has a 2/2 sash with replacement shutters. The roof is standing seam metal with an off-center chimney. The gable ends have a single center bay with an arched attic window and 2/2 sash in the first and second stories. The rear elevation has a two-story shed addition which has been altered near the northwest corner with a raised gable roof. This projects beyond the end of the veranda above an exposed cellar entrance on the west side. The east end of the addition has a one-story enclosure at the end of the veranda which is the current rear entrance to the kitchen of the house. Across the north elevation of the addition are three bays, each with 2/2 windows and replacement shutters. A second interior chimney rises from the roof. The dates of the changes to the house are difficult to identify by the exterior because the vinyl siding covers the original siding, which was probably german siding. The interior was inaccessible for this survey, but personal interviews with the current owners, Mrs. Hilda McPherson and Mrs. Dorothy Arrington, and the resident tenant indicate that considerable remodeling has taken place.

Meathouse: The frame meathouse located northeast of the house has clapboard siding and a corrugated metal roof. The roof extends over the west gable end, providing an enclosed loft cantilevered above the doorway, which is unusual in having double vertical tongue-and-groove doors. The meathouse was probably built about 1896.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-5-92

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1896–1930

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The John N. Clay Farmstead is minimally significant in architecture for the general form of the dwelling, built about 1896 by John N. Clay (1846–1923), but much altered in the 1980's by the addition of vinyl siding which covered an important feature of the design, a second story sun porch. The farmstead is also marginally important for the number of surviving outbuildings and for the design of the bank barn and the wagon shed/corn crib which were built about 1896–1900. Their generally deteriorated condition has lowered the integrity of the farmstead, but the cupolas and siding indicate that the original forms were typical of agricultural outbuildings available through farm supply catalogs and had standardized designs. When Clay died in 1923, alterations were undoubtedly already being made to the barn and other buildings to adapt the farm to dairy production as its principal crop. The concrete enclosure of the stall level in the barn and the addition of the milk house were typical changes found on the majority of farms in Frederick County during the 1920's. Descendants of John N. Clay still own the farmstead, but it is no longer in agricultural use.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-5-92

Holdcraft, Jacob M. Names In Stone, V.1. Privately published, Ann Arbor, Mi., 1966, p. 245.

Land Records of Frederick County

McPherson, Mrs. Hilda M., telephone interview, April 1994.

Moxley, Mrs. Anna B., telephone interview, June 6, 1994

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acres

Quadrangle name Damascus, Md.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 5 acres centered on the dwelling on Tax Map 98, Parcel 3.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date June 1994

street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958

city or town Frederick state MD 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

7.1 Description (Continued)

Chicken houses, hog barn, equipment shed: The agricultural outbuildings north and northeast of the dwelling are in deteriorated condition. At least three appear to be chicken houses and one was most probably built as a hog barn. Most have varied siding, some vertical boards, some clapboard, some covered with asphalt material. The shed roofs are corrugated metal. Windows are mostly 6/6 or openings with missing sash. The equipment shed has a higher roof with a shallow gable and two large openings on the west elevation. A frame shed northwest of the house near the north side of the driveway was also described as a chicken house by Mrs. McPherson. It has vertical siding which has traces of whitewash and a deteriorated corrugated metal roof with a single vertical board door on the south. These outbuildings range in date from about 1900 to 1930.

Wagon shed/corn crib: The frame wagon shed has german siding on the south elevation and vented horizontal siding on the east and west cribs. Stone piers raise the building from the ground and the corrugated metal roof is crowned by two louvred cupolas. A single 6/6 window lights the loft in the south elevation. The wagon shed was probably built about 1896-1900.

Bank barn and milk house: The frame and stone bank barn located west of the house was built about 1896-1900 and has three deteriorated cupolas on the ridge of the corrugated metal roof. The exterior has louvred arched vents and vertical siding. Below the forebay on the south elevation is an enclosure of concrete block with a bank of 6/6 windows, some of which are currently missing, which was added about 1920-1925 to form a milking parlor. Adjoining the barn on the east side is a rusticated concrete block milk house, probably built about 1925-1930. South of the barn is a non-contributing loafing shed. The sign on the barn with the name of J. W. Moxley and the date 1902 were originally on a barn in another farm owned by James W. Moxley. That barn was destroyed by lightning and the sign was salvaged and placed on the barn in the Clay farmstead, which was of about the same date. This information was provided by Mrs. McPherson and Mrs. Arrington, the daughters of Mr. Moxley.

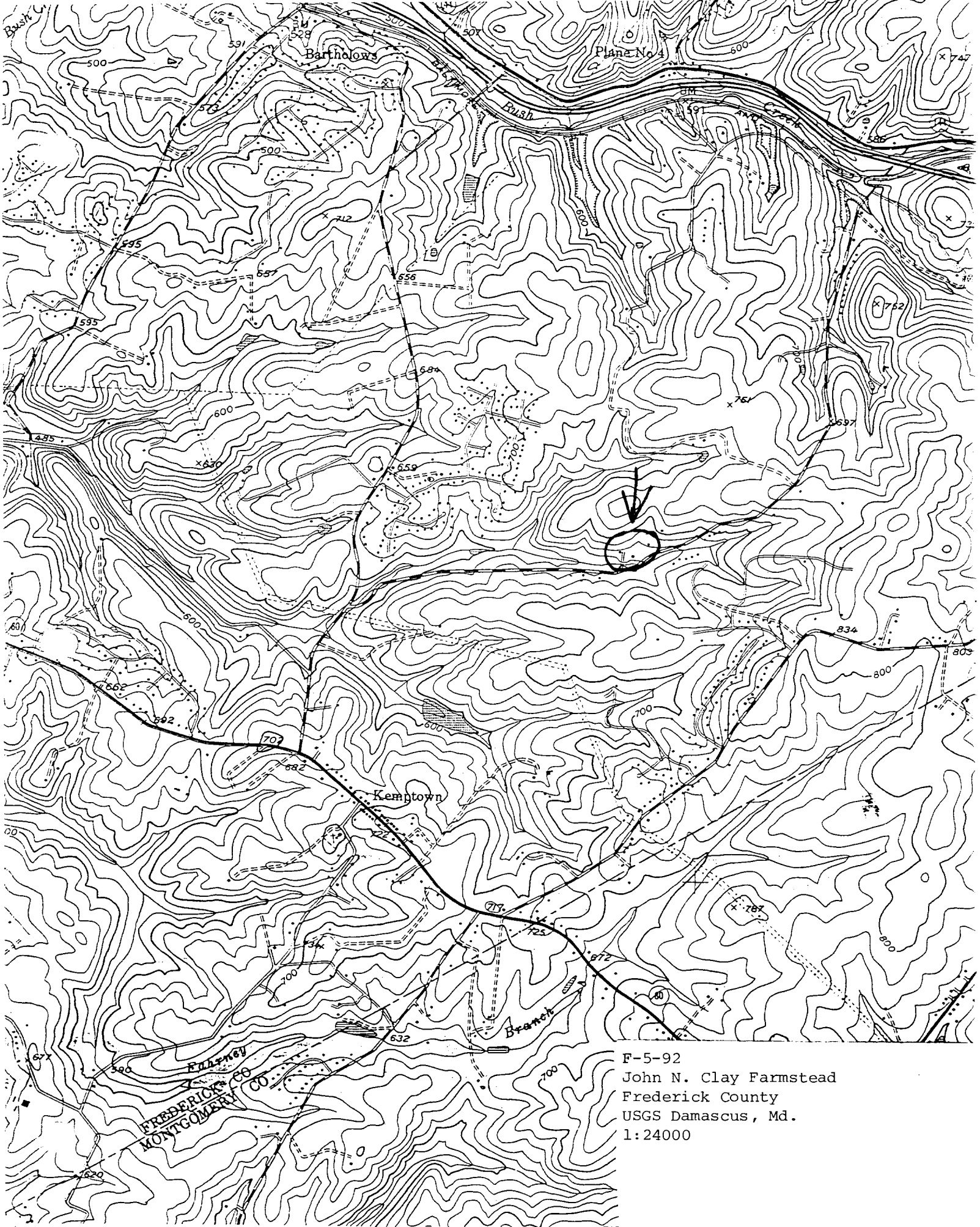
41^{1/2} Bill Moxley Rd.

Lot Size, Description,
Original Tracts,
Miscellaneous

Cost

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Miscellaneous	
142 3/638 24 June 87	Heldas M. McKee son & Dorothy Arrington	James W. Moxley & Anna B. Moxley his wife	P. 1: 119 A., 36 sq. p. on each side of public road from Plane No. 4 to Hampton 350/362 P. 2: 50 A., 3 R., 1 sq. p.	
395/574 7 Dec. 34	James W. & Anna B. Moxley	Fredrick Brown Lawrence Driel	50 A., 3 R., 1 sq. p.	
380/377 28 Sept 31	James W. & Mary Annabelle Moxley	Sarah Belle Clay, unmar.	119 A., 36 sq. p.	\$5,450
350/362 1 Nov 24	Sarah Belle Clay	John A. & Laura S. Engle		\$6557.37 1/2
350/360 1 Nov 24	John A. Engle	Jesse Clay, Sarah Belle Clay Frank C. Norwood, exec. of L. W. of John Nelson Clay	1. JLT 16/60 113 A. 3. 1 A. 2. DHH 5/318 5 A., 2 R., 20 sq. p. part of "Battlewood Forest"	
2) DHH 5/318 28 Oct 1899	John M. Clay	O. L. T. and Sarah C. Sout.	5 5/8 A.	\$168
1) JLT 16/60 22 Mar 1897	John M. Clay	Melvin P. & Annie M. Wood	113 A.	\$2575
JLT 14/159 4 June 1896	Melvin P. Wood	John M. Clay Trustee in Equity 6412	Equity Deed 5TH 1/9 John M. Clay res. Julia & Wife 10/20/2011/1895 adm. of estate Thos. Griffith no description of beds.	\$2305.20
AF 5/583 29 Nov-1882	Julia A. Griffith wife of Thos. H. Griffith	Francis H. Engle & Ida Engle	113 A.	\$1950

11-5-92



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John N. Clay Farmstead
Frederick County
USGS Damascus, Md.
1:24000



F-5-92

John N. Clay Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1994

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md

South elevation

1/7



F-5-92

John N. Clay Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1994

Loc. loc.: Md SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

West elevation

2/7



F-5-92

John N. Clay Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

Apr. 1 1974

Net loc.: Mid. CHPO, Crownsville, Md.
North elevation

3/7



F-5-92

John N. Clay Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1994

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md

Meathouse, northwest corner view

4/7



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John N. Clay Farmstead
Frederick County

Photos: Janet Davis

April 1994

Neg. loc.: Md. SLPO Greensville Md
Chicken houses and equipment shed view from
west

5/7



F-93

John N. Gray Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1994

Neg. loc. ind. SHPO, Crownsville Md.

Wagon shed/corn crib, south-east corner view
6/7



F-5-92

John N. P. Formosa

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Law

April 1994

Mag. 62. Mid. HFO. Crownsville, Md.

Born. south elevation

7/7